Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIGs. 24(a) and 24(b), a holding ring 420 made of metal is fitted on a flange portion 412 defining an opening 414 of the fuel tank 410. The holding ring 420 ~~is comprised of~~ comprises segmental rings 420a and 420b, which are hinged on hooks 422 and fastened together using a bolt 424 and a nut 425. These segmental rings 420a, 420b clamp a holding plate 416 as a cover of a fuel tank 410 to the flange portion 412, thereby hermetically closing the fuel tank 410.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, the cover-mounting structure as shown in FIG. 28 is configured to have the mounting part ~~49~~ 949 fastened to the supporting part ~~51~~ 951, with the result that an enclosed hollow space ~~52~~ 952 is provided, and thus bubbles which would be derived from air in the enclosed hollow space ~~52~~ 952 could possibly be identified erroneously as the bubbles generated from inside of the fuel tank body ~~43~~ 943.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In order to avoid such an erroneous identification, at a stage after the fuel tank ~~40~~ 940 is submerged in the water tank ~~57~~ 957 and before pressure-regulated air is introduced therein, you should wait until the enclosed hollow space ~~52~~ 952 becomes filled with water flown through very small gaps, for example, a gap ~~58~~ 958 between the mounting part ~~49~~ 949 and the cover ~~41~~ 941, which necessarily results in an extended period of time for completion of the test. Moreover, even in this instance, if air in the enclosed hollow space ~~52~~ 952 could not have been removed, bubbles derived from the air remaining in the enclosed hollow space ~~52~~ 952 could possibly appear during the test; therefore, erroneous identification could not be avoided in any event.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 45, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Next, a description of the aforementioned retainer 169 will be given more in detail below. FIG. 14 is a schematic illustration of the retainer 169; FIG. 14(a) is a plan view, and FIG. 14(b) is a vertical sectional view taken along line H-H of FIG. 14(a). The retainer 169 is an annular metal disc resulting from stamping of spring steel followed by heat treatment, and is formed annularly so as to surround the cover 161. In the retainer 169, slits ~~179a, 179a,~~ 169a, 169a, ... of which eight may be provided for example, are cut in radial directions at an inner circumference of its circular shape. An inner edge portion of the retainer 169 has a corrugated portion 169c formed along a peripheral edge thereof by drawing or the like. Reference numeral 169b denotes a round hole. In the round holes 169b are inserted the bolts 171 (*see* FIG. 13), on which the nuts (*see* FIG. 13) are in turn screwed down; thus, the retainer 169 is fixed on the annular member 168.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 49, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIGs. 15 through 17, a fuel tank T ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a tank body 192 made of plastic, at least part of which is made of a barrier material, with an opening 197 provided in the tank body 192. Mounted over the opening 197 is a cover-like member ~~192~~ 191(*see* FIG. 17) composed of a pump module and other components. In an external surface of the tank body 192 is provided a recess (groove) 192b which extends circularly around a peripheral edge portion of the opening 197, and an annular member 198 is insert-molded in the recess 192b during a plastic molding process. The annular member 198 is so shaped as to be kept from obstructing the thermal contraction of the tank body 192 made of plastic when the tank body 192 is contracted by heat, or shaped like a flat plate having no irregularity on its surfaces. Moreover, the annular member 198 is provided with a plurality of bolts 204 protruding from annularly arranged positions along a peripheral edge of the opening 197. Reference character 192a denotes a drainage passage. The drainage passage 192a is provided in the external surface of the tank body 192. Provision of the drainage passage 192a as described above forms a structure in which the drainage passage 192a is configured to connect interfaces between the annular recess 192b and bottom surface(s) of at least one of the annular member 198 and the bolts 204, and to connect spaces around the above interfaces, thereby allowing water to drain to

the outside to prevent the formation of rust. Here, as illustrated, a single drainage passage 192 is provided in the external surface of the tank body 192; it is however understood that the number of passages may be increased as appropriate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 54, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

An annular member (hereinafter referred to as annular supporting part 218) is provided on an outside wall 212a of the tank body 212 so as to surround the opening 217. Provided in a gap between the supporting part 218 and the outside wall 212a of the tank body 212, on which the supporting part 218 is fixed, are a plurality of through holes 205, ... , (for example, eight of which are provided in the present embodiment and among which six are illustrated) which are substantially evenly spaced along its circumference. Moreover, in the supporting part 218 are provided a plurality of bolts ~~221~~ 213, ... (for example, eight of which are provided in the present embodiment), which are located at positions substantially evenly spaced around its circumference but not coincide with the positions of the through holes 205, ... and are fitted and held upright in holes 218a, ... provided in the supporting part 218. Hereupon, the supporting part 218 may be fixed on the outside wall 212a of the tank body 212 by various means, which is not limited to a particular method but may include for example welding and the like. Moreover, the bolts [[8]] 213, ... may be fixed on the supporting part 218 by various means, which is not limited to a particular method but may include for example screwing and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 54, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

An annular retainer (hereinafter referred to as annular mounting part 219) includes an inner peripheral portion 219a to rest against the cover 211, and an outer peripheral portion 219c provided with retaining holes 219b, ... through which bolts ~~221~~ 213, ... are to be inserted. The retaining holes 219b, ... are fitted on the bolts ~~221~~ 213, ... while the cover 211 is being pressed down by the inner peripheral portion 219a, and the outer peripheral portion 219c is then fastened on the supporting part 218 using the bolts ~~221~~ 213, ... and the nuts ~~222~~ 214, ... , thereby allowing the cover 211 to be mounted on the fuel tank body 212. Moreover, along a bend 219d of the mounting part 219 are provided a plurality of through holes 206, ... (for example, eight of

which are provided in the present embodiment), which are substantially evenly spaced around its circumference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 55, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The materials of which the supporting part 218, mounting part 219, bolts ~~221~~ 213, ... and nuts ~~222~~ 214 are formed are not limited, but may preferably be formed of metal in that the cover 211 is firmly fixed and its mount spot is resistant to deformation. Further, in order to prevent rust that would be formed when these metal parts are submerged in water during submergence leak test or the like, the metal to be used may preferably be antirust metal such as stainless steel or the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 55, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

First, the seal 18 is placed on top of the flange 217a around the opening 217, and the cover 211 is then placed on the seal 18. Further, the retaining holes 921b, ... provided in the outer peripheral portion 219c of the mounting part 219 are fitted on the bolts ~~221~~ 213, ... while a top surface 211a of the outer edge portion of the cover 211 is being pressed down with the inner peripheral portion 219a of the mounting part 219. Subsequently, the nuts ~~222~~ 214, ... are screwed on the bolts ~~221~~ 213, ..., and the cover 211 is thereby mounted on the fuel tank body 212.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 56, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In FIG. 21(a), which illustrates a cover-mounting structure mounted by following the aforementioned process steps, FIG. 21(b), which is a vertical sectional view taken along line N-N thereof, illustrates a vertical section of a portion where the mounting part 219 is fixed on the supporting part 218. As shown in FIG. 21(b), the mounting part 219, with the inner peripheral portion 219a thereof pressing down the top surface 211a of the outer edge portion of the cover 211, extends out to the supporting part 218, and the outer peripheral portion 219c of the

mounting part 219 is fastened using the bolts ~~221~~ 213and the nuts ~~222~~ 214, thereby allowing the cover 211 to be mounted onto the fuel tank body 212 in a firm and hermetical manner.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 58, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 22(a), the fuel tank 220 made of plastic ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a fuel tank body 221 having a recess 221b provided on an outer wall 221a thereof in which recess 221b a supporting part 223 is insert-molded with bolts 222 held upright and substantially evenly spaced around a circumference. While a top surface 225a of an outer edge portion of a cover 225 is being pressed by an inner peripheral portion 224a of a mounting part 224, retainer holes 224b of the mounting part 224 are fitted on the bolts 222, and the mounting part 224 is fastened with nuts 226, so that the cover 225 is mounted on the fuel tank body 221 in a firm and hermetical manner.